(a) whether Government propose to increase FDI in FM Radio; and

(b) whether Government would allow news and current affairs programmes in FM Radio?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per the policy, the private FM broadcasters are free to air broacasts of audio on main carrier and data on sub carriers both excluding news and current affairs. Government does not propose to allow FM Radio stations to broadcast news and current affairs.

South Asia Media Commission

4525. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether South Asia Media Commission, set up on 1st April, 2007, has set itself the objective of evolving a mechanism for effective monitoring of and prompt response to attacks on journalists and media and media organizations across South Asia;

(b) if so, whether the commission would collate information about violation of media rights and flash these cases through print, electronic, radio and Internet networks in eight South Asian Nations; and

(c) if so, what would be the other objectives of this Commission?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The Government has not set-up the South Asia Media Commission, and is therefore not aware of its objectives. It is understood that the establishment of the South Asia Media Commission was facilitated by the South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA), which is a non-governmental body.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.